

DIIME DRUG INDUSTRY IMMUNITY MUST END

RxVICTIMS.COM coalition convened by Michigan Citizen Action

LESLIE RICHTER

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TORT REFORM
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- Thank you to Chairman Elsenheimer and the distinguished members of this committee for the opportunity to speak with you today on this important issue.
- My name is Leslie Richter.
- Chairman, I understand that nothing this committee does – nothing the Michigan House of Representatives does -- will bring my husband back to me.
- Nothing you or I might accomplish here can return to my family what Vioxx took away.
- We cannot undo the past.
- However, I believe that we can learn from the past – not just for ourselves, but for others, so that **others** might be spared from having to go through what we have.
- And it's that belief – that hope – that brings me here before you today.

MICHIGAN CITIZEN ACTION

729 Academy St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-349-9170

220 Bagley St., Suite 948
Detroit, MI
313-963-4260

336 W. First St. Suite 103
Flint, MI 48502

- For just over ten years, the people of Michigan have been treated as guinea pigs in a one-of-a-kind, radical experiment.
- The experiment was this:
 - to remove from each and every citizen in the state a basic right, a right possessed by every other U.S. citizen:
 - our basic right to seek the truth, in a court of law, about what happened to us, or to our loved ones.
 - The experiment was also to remove from **one** industry, and one industry alone, any **real** accountability for the products they sell – or how they sell them.
- What the real purpose of this experiment was is unclear.
- If it was, as the billboards we see around town suggest, to keep jobs in Michigan, then the experiment has failed, badly.
- If the purpose of the experiment was to create a shining legal model for the rest of the country to follow, again, it has failed – miserably.
- No other state in the country has followed our example.
- And why would they?
- Why would a state legislature choose to remove from their own citizens such a basic right as their day in court?

- Finally, if the purpose of the experiment was to help the drug industry make us safer, the experiment has failed beyond belief.
- Chairman, and honorable members of the committee, ten years is long enough.
- It's time to end the experiment.
- It's time to do right by the people of Michigan and repeal the drug industry immunity law.
- Thank you for your time.

Submitted by:
Leslie Richter
1111 W. Northrup St.
Lansing, MI 48911